

Message Text

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12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8873

INFO GOVERNMENT OF STATE OF NEW YORK DIRECTOR STATE OPS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 688

DEPT PASS GOVERNMENT OF STATE OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
STATE OPERATIONS ROOM 229, STATE CAPITAL BLDG., ALBANY ,
N.Y. ATTENTION: MISS COLLEEN BURKE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, CA

SUBJ: THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE

REF: STATE 38354

FOLLOWING MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT PRESS RELEASE PROVIDED BY
EXTAFF FEBRUARY 19:

BEGIN TEXT - OPERATION OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE WILL
REMAIN UNCHANGED AFTER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CANADIAN
SECTION IS ASSUMED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORT
MINISTER OTTO LANG SAID TODAY.

THE BRIDGE, SPANNING AN INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE ST.
LAWRENCE RIVER NEAR BRICKVILLE, ONT., IS SCHEDULED TO REVERT
TO FEDERAL OWNERSHIP AS OF MARCH 1.

BOTH THE CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES SPANS HAVE BEEN OPERATED
BY THE THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE AUTHORITY UNDER THE TERMS OF AN
AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1936. MEMBERS OF THE TIBA ARE AMERICAN.

THE AGREEMENT SPECIFIED THAT THE CANADIAN SECTION
WOULD REVERT TO THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO WHEN THE
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION BONDS WERE PAID OFF, WHICH WILL
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BE THE CASE AS OF MARCH 1. HOWEVER, MR. LANG EXPLAINED

THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAD WAIVED ITS RIGHTS TO THE BRIDGE IN FAVOR OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. OFFICIALS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AUTHORITY ARE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING WITH THE THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY THE LATTER WOULD OPERATE THE BRIDGE ON BEHALF OF THE SEAWAY FOR A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AFTER MARCH 1.

MR. LANG SAID THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AUTHORITY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CANADIAN SPAN ON BEHALF OF TRANSPORT CANADA. HE SAID THE SEAWAY AUTHORITY WILL CONTINUE THE PRACTISE OF PAYING GRANTS IN LIEU OF MUNICIPAL TAXES, THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF ELIMINATING CANADIAN JOBS OR TERMINATING SERVICE CONTRACTS WHERE THEY ARE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AND WILL MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF SERVICE ON THE BRIDGE. THE ARRANGEMENT WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED BY THE SEAWAY AUTHORITY IN ADMINISTERING THE SEAWAY INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AT CORNWALL, ONT., THROUGH A SUBSIDIARY CORPORATION.

MR. LANG EMPHASIZED THAT THE BRIDGE SPAN TAKEOVER WAS NOT RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE ACTIVITIES OF PARKS CANADA IN THE AREA. END TEXT.
ENDERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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Message Attributes

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